IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1.   (Currently Amended) A method of selecting preferred video segments
from a plurality of video segments within a video stream, said method comprising:

receiving said video stream, said video stream comprising a continuous series of video
    segments;

decoding associated markers encoded within said video stream, said associated markers
    indicating divisions between said plurality of video segments of said video stream;

decoding associated tags encoded within said video stream, each video segment having
    associated tags, said tags provide information relating to the content of an associated
    video segment;

storing said markers and tags decoded from said video stream in a database;

storing said plurality of video segments in a video storage, each video segment stored in
    said video storage having an associated address for locating said video segment in
    said video storage, said plurality of video segments identified from said video stream
    using said markers;

comparing using video preference information of a viewer to select preferred video
    segments from said video storage by comparing said associated tags describing the
    content of each video segment to determine an associated video preference indicator
    for each video segment, a subset of said associated tags indicating video segments
    that are to be designated as mandatory in said associated video preference indicator
    stored in said database with said video preference information of said viewer; and

storing an entry in a video segment storage for each video segment stored in said video
    storage, said entry comprising said associated address an indication of preferred video
    segments in said database; and

successively playing preferred video segments by reading said video segment storage to
    select video segments having a favorable associated video preference indicator and

accessing said video segments having a favorable associated video preference indicator using said associated address.

2.   (Canceled).

3.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the <u>associated</u> within said video stream and the markers within said video stream are encoded manually into said video stream by use of a computer.

4.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the <u>associated</u> tags within said video stream and the markers within said video stream are encoded automatically by use of voice recognition techniques.

5.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said <u>associated</u> markers within said video stream are encoded within said video stream based upon detection of change of scenes.

6.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said step of <u>comparing</u> ~~using~~ video preference information of said viewer ~~to select preferred video segments~~ comprises comparing key words that are ~~input by~~ <u>received from</u> said viewer with the tags that have been placed within said video stream.

7.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 1 wherein said tags within said video stream are encoded using information from an Electronic Programming Guide.

8.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 1 wherein said tags within said video stream and said markers within said video stream are encoded in a vertical blanking interval within said video stream.

9.   (Canceled).

10.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said successively playing preferred video segments further comprises comprising a step of: skipping to a next video segment upon receiving an input control signal from a user input device.

11.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said successively playing preferred video segments further comprises comprising a step of: excluding said video segments that do not have tags that match any preferred content tags in said video preference information of said viewer.

12.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said successively playing preferred video segments further comprises comprising a step of: excluding said video segments that have tags that match undesired content tags in said video preference information of said viewer.

13. - 16.   (Canceled)

17.   (Currently Amended) A method of selecting preferred video segments from a plurality of video segments in a video stream, the method comprising:

receiving said video stream, said video stream comprising a continuous series of video segments;

decoding markers encoded within said video stream, said markers having a position in said video stream that indicates a division between said plurality of video segments of said video stream;

decoding tags encoded within said video stream, each video segment having associated tags, said associated tags provide information relating to the content of the associated video segment;

storing said plurality of video segments from said video stream in a local video storage, each of said plurality of video segments stored in said video storage having an

associated address for locating said video segment in said video storage ~~identified~~

~~from said video stream using said markers~~;

comparing ~~using~~ video preference information of a viewer to ~~select preferred video~~

~~segments by comparing~~ said associated tags of each video segment to determine an

associated video preference indicator for each video segment, a subset of said

associated tags indicating video segments that are to be designated as mandatory in

said associated video preference indicator ~~with video preference information of said~~

~~viewer~~;

storing an entry in a video segment storage for each video segment stored in said local

video storage, said entry comprising said associated address ~~an indication of said~~

~~preferred video segments in said database~~; and

downloading ~~said~~ preferred video segments from said local video storage by reading said

video segment storage to select video segments having a favorable associated video

preference indicator and accessing said video segments having a favorable associated

video preference indicator using said associated address ~~if said comparison of said~~

~~tags of each video segment with said video preference information is favorable~~.

18.   (Canceled)

19.   (Currently Amended) A system to select ~~for selecting~~ preferred video

segments from a continuous series of video segments in a video stream received by said system,

said system comprising:

a decoder that decodes associated tags and associated markers from said video stream,

said associated markers indicating divisions between said continuous series of video

segments in said video stream, said associated tags to provide information relating to

the content of an associated video segment;

~~a video segment database that stores said tags and said markers decoded from said video~~

~~stream~~;

a video storage <u>to store</u> ~~for storing~~ said video segments of said video stream received by said system, said video segments identified using said markers<u>, each video segment having an associated address for locating said video segment in said video storage</u>;

a user preference database, said user preference database storing viewer preferences from a viewer; ~~and~~

a comparator that compares said <u>associated</u> tags from <u>each</u> said video segment ~~database~~ with said viewer preferences to <u>determine an associated video preference indicator for each video segment, a subset of said associated tags indicating video segments that are to be designated as mandatory in said associated video preference indicator</u> ~~select preferred video segments from said video storage and marks said video segment database with an indication of said preferred video segments~~;

<u>a video segment storage comprising an entry for each video segment, each entry comprising said associated address; and</u>

<u>a playback system that successively plays preferred video segments by reading said entries in said video segment storage to select video segments having a favorable associated video preference indicator and accesses said video segments having a favorable associated video preference indicator using said associated address.</u>

20.   (Previously Presented)   The system as claimed in claim 19, said system further comprising:

a personal video recorder coupled to an input of said system that filters said video stream.

21.   (Previously Presented)   The system as claimed in claim 19 wherein said decoder comprises a video blanking interval decoder.

22.   (Canceled)

23.   (Currently Amended) The system as claimed in claim 19 wherein said <u>associated</u> tags comprise information from an Electronic Program Guide relating to said video segment.

24.   (Canceled).

25.   (Currently Amended) The system as claimed in claim 19 wherein said associated markers and said associated tags are encoded as analog data in said video stream.

26.   (Currently Amended) The system as claimed in claim 19 wherein said associated markers and said associated tags are encoded as digital data in said video stream.

27 - 28.   (Canceled).

29.   (Currently Amended) The system as claimed in claim 19 wherein said associated markers are inserted into said video stream to indicate the division between said video segments by automatic detection of changes in flesh tone within said video stream.

30.   (Currently Amended) The system as claimed in claim 19 wherein said associated markers are inserted into said video stream to indicate the division between said video segments by automatic detection of changes in audio levels within said video stream.

31.   (Currently Amended) The system as claimed in claim 19 wherein said associated markers are inserted into said video stream to indicate the division between said video segments by automatic detection of changes in light levels within said video stream.

32.   (Currently Amended) The system as claimed in claim 19 wherein said associated markers are inserted into said video stream to indicate the division between said video segments by automatic detection of changes in color within said video stream.

33.   (Currently Amended) The system as claimed in claim 19 wherein said associated markers are inserted into said video stream to indicate the division between video segments by applying voice recognition software to said video stream.

34.   (Currently Amended) The system as claimed in claim 19 wherein said <u>associated</u> markers are inserted into said video stream to indicate the division between said video segments by automatic detection of changes in music within said video stream.

35.   (Currently Amended) The system as claimed in claim 19 wherein said <u>associated</u> markers are inserted into said video stream to indicate the division between said video segments by automatic detection of changes in scenery within said video stream.

36.   (Previously Presented)   The system as claimed in claim 19 wherein said plurality of video segments in said video stream comprise a live broadcast signal that is sent to said system at said viewer's premises.

37.   (Canceled)

38.   (Previously Presented)   The system as claimed in claim 19 further comprising a viewer personalized remote control that transmits said viewer preference information to said system.

39 - 71.   (Canceled).

72.   (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim 1, said method further comprising a step of:
    storing an indication of mandatory video segments in said <u>video segment storage</u> <s>database</s>.

73.   (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim 17, said method further comprising a step of:
    storing an indication of mandatory video segments in said <u>video segment storage</u> <s>database</s>.

74.   (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the entry comprises said associated tag.

75.   (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the entry comprises said video preference
indicator.

76.   (New) The method of claim 17 wherein the entry comprises said associated tag.

77.   (New) The method of claim 17 wherein the entry comprises said video preference
indicator.